

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 91

By DuBois

A RESOLUTION to commend Charles and Gail Pigg upon being honored with the Maury Alliance's Century Farm of the Year Award.

WHEREAS, it is fitting that the members of this General Assembly should salute those estimable citizens who, through their professional and personal endeavors, serve as cornerstones of their respective communities and are a credit to this State; and

WHEREAS, one such noteworthy gentleman is Charles Pigg of Maury County's Mingo Branch Farm, who, along with his wife, Gail, is being honored with the Maury Alliance's Century Farm of the Year Award; and

WHEREAS, the Century Farm Program was established to recognize the dedication and contributions of those families who have retained ownership of the same farm for more than a century, persevering through succeeding generations as they have coped with wars, floods, droughts, economic crises, and other obstacles presented by way of natural and human intervention; and

WHEREAS, Charles Pigg purchased the Mingo Branch Farm from his mother in February 1961; the farm has been in the possession of the Pigg family since 1837, when Charles's great great grandfather Henderson Pigg acquired it, and is thus approaching its third century of family ownership; and

WHEREAS, the Pigg family is an illustrious one in Tennessee's history, as Charles's great grandfather James Maury Pigg served nobly in the Confederate Army; and

WHEREAS, the Mingo Branch Farm has produced a diverse lot of crops throughout the last 170 years, including corn, tobacco, pimento peppers, hay, garden vegetables, and grains; the farm has also produced livestock such as cattle, hogs, sheep, mules, horses, and poultry; and

WHEREAS, today Charles Pigg still lives in the house in which he was born, and he has lived all but one of his 68 years of life on the family farm; even during the one year he did not live on the farm, which was his first year of marriage to the former Gail Roundtree, he still went by the farm almost every day to help with farm chores; and

WHEREAS, Charles Pigg overcame a great obstacle to the courtship of the lovely young Gail, as he had stolen her bicycle at the age of sixteen; he steadfastly spent said courtship mostly in the company of Gail's mother as Gail toiled with her father milking cows; despite these setbacks, Gail and Charles were married November 7, 1958; and

WHEREAS, Gail is to be commended for her gracious amnesty in said bicycle circumstance, and also for her diligence in carrying out most of Mingo Branch Farm's daily labor while Charles works as an electrician and in the HVAC business; and

WHEREAS, in addition to being a successful farmer and family man, Charles Pigg also devotes substantial effort to preserving history; Mr. Pigg has restored the Pigg Schoolhouse, a county school from 1858 until 1920; he has also restored the family log smokehouse and operates a family museum that holds many antiques, including an extensive collection of antique tools; and

WHEREAS, Charles and Gail Pigg epitomize the spirit and commitment that are characteristic of true Tennesseans; and

WHEREAS, this General Assembly finds it appropriate to pause in its deliberations to acknowledge and applaud Charles and Gail Pigg for their dedication to farming, recognizing the importance of the family farm to our communities and the State of Tennessee; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED FIFTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, that we hereby honor and commend Charles and Gail Pigg upon their receipt of The Century Farm of the Year Award, presented by the Maury Alliance, in honor of their contributions to the agribusiness industry in Maury County, as we extend to them our best wishes for every future success.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.

